

12/16/99

Chairman Reflects on Highlights of 1999



APESANAHKWAT

Greetings Fellow Menominee's,

1999 has been a productive year for the Legislature. Settlement of the Termination Case ended a long hard fought battle over the harm the Tribe suffered because of Termination. We didn't win what we wanted to win; but it was more than we thought we'd win throughout the past 25 years. The Court didn't award the Tribe anything for the pain and suffering endured by the people. We got the Judgment Funds for damages to our resources. At least we got something and then members of the Legislature had to make many visits, phone calls, and letters to our congressional delegation to finally get approval.

The Kenosha Project has taken the majority of the Legislature's time. This project began back in the early 1990's under the late Glen Miller. Every Legislature since that time has worked on it. We finally got the Project on the fast track and now it looks very promising that it will become a reality in the new millenium. The Legislature couldn't have done it alone. Tribal members showed their support when they amended the Constitution. The Tribe can look forward to more per capita than we've ever had in the past, and increased services in housing, education, health benefits, law enforcement, elderly assistance, and recreation for all ages, among other things-- all coming from the Kenosha Project.

After 20 years, the Legislature finally moved on bringing MTE under Article XII of the Constitution. A Tribal Ordinance established a Charter for MTE which immediately became the subject of a lawsuit in Tribal Court. The Legislature has committed itself that how ever the Court may rule on this issue, the Legislature will follow that ruling. We look forward to an early resolution of this entire matter.

Every day important issues come before the Legislature through the Chairman's Office. We recognize that every tribal member has questions that are in need of answers. We make every effort to solve these individual questions as soon as possible.

At this time of year, I want to wish every tribal member the happiest of holidays and a prosperous New Year. Let's all work together to make this happen.

Sincerely,

Apesanahkwat
Honorable Tribal Chairman